



As a working parent, one of your toughest tasks is choosing the right child care provider. Up to now, parents had few tools to help them make that difficult decision.

But now there's YoungStar.

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children & families
wisconsin department of



youngstar.wi.gov



When choosing
a child care provider,
look for the stars.

I am YoungStar

youngstar 
Wisconsin's Child Care Rating Program

Your child care provider— making an important choice

Quality early care makes a big difference in your little one's life – and in yours. While you're at work, you want to know your child is safe and secure, and gaining the knowledge and social skills that set the stage for a successful tomorrow. A quality child care program gets your child off to a promising start in life, while providing you with priceless peace of mind.

"Star Quality" just took on a whole new meaning

YoungStar is Wisconsin's new Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System. Now, in addition to talking to other parents and consulting with child care resource and referral programs, you can "look for the stars" when selecting a child care provider. For the first time, parents will be able to compare the quality of care their children will receive using an established, measurable standard.

From now on, regulated Wisconsin child care providers will be evaluated annually and given a rating from 1 to 5 stars – with 5 stars being the highest rating. A provider's star rating is based on:

- Educational Qualifications & Training
- Learning Environment & Curriculum
- Professional & Business Practices
- Child Health & Well-Being Practices

All Wisconsin child care providers that serve children birth through five are eligible to participate in YoungStar. Providers receiving Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy **MUST** participate and be rated.

The YoungStar rating system not only raises the bar for Wisconsin child care providers, it provides an incentive to further develop the quality of their child care programs. YoungStar providers have access to added training opportunities for their staff and technical assistance for their program. Micro-grants are available to help them purchase items such as books and learning materials.

Look for the Stars

If you're seeking quality care for your child, your first stop should be the YoungStar website at: youngstar.wi.gov. You'll find detailed information about the YoungStar program, along with a link to search for providers in your community, their star ratings, any health and safety issues, and accreditation. When interviewing child care providers, look for the YoungStar "stars" in their window and the YoungStar certificate proudly displayed on their wall.

You want your child to have the best start in life – and that's what YoungStar is all about!

Visit youngstar.wi.gov



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What the Stars mean



Meets highest levels of quality standards.



Meets elevated levels of quality standards.



Meets proficient levels of quality standards.



Meets health and safety standards.



Does not meet health and safety standards.
Cannot participate in YoungStar.

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